[Translation]

Diabetes

*311. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the incidence of diabetes in increasing alarmingly in the country at present;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government to check the disease;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch a campaign for awareness about this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No reliable nationwide data is available on the incidence of Diabetes.

(b) to (d) The 9th Plan allocation for the Department has not yet been finalised.

An amount of Rs. 1 crore has been allocated under this Programme for the year 1997-98 for carrying out awareness and other activities related with this disease.

[English]

Drug Research Programme for AIDS/HIV

*312. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the drug research programmes carried out in India for the treatment of AIDS/HIV;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government for the purpose;

(c) whether any research is being sponsored by the Government to find Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani cure for AIDS in Government/Private Institutions; and

(d) the steps taken to encourage research on finding a cure of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) To promote and encourage research on finding a cure for AIDS, Indian Council of Medical Research has set up an 'Expert Group' to critically examine proposals on research under various systems of Medicine. The Council has recently established facilities at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune to study anti-retroviral properties of some traditional medicines for HIV infection. These studies have just been initiated. Indian Council of Medical Research has allocated Rs. 6.42 lacs for this facility.

Research in the field of drug treatement of HIV/AIDS is being taken up in various systems of medicines in our country.

Allopathic System of Medicine

In Maharashtra three drug regime trials of reverse transcriptase inhibitors have been undertaken at AIDS Research and Control Centre, Mumbai in colloboration with Government of Maharashtra. The preliminary findings show an increase in CD 4 counts. The final outcome of the study is awaited.

Homoeopathic System of Medicine

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has undertaken a research study since 1989 to evaluate the role of homoeopathic medicine. The study is being carried out at the Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy, Mumbai and clinical research unit of Homoeopathy, Chennai.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has also carried out an independent randomized placebo controlled trial of homoeopathic medicines in HIV infection at Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy, Mumbai. The final outcome of this study is awaited. The Governing Body of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has recently approved establishment of Central Research Institute of Homoeopathy exclusively for research in HIV/AIDS.

The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy have spent Rs. 67.89 lacs since 1989. This includes Rs. 25.25 lacs provided by the National AIDS Control Organisation during 1995-96.

Research on Siddha Drugs

Research on the role of Siddha drugs in the management of HIV/AIDS is carried out at Government Hospital of Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram, Chennai. But the final outcome of these studies is still awaited. Funds to the tune of Rs. 8 lacs for carrying out this trial has been provided by NACO.

[Translation]

Hepatitis

*313. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the types of Hepatitis detected in the country;

(b) whether the deadly Hepatitis epidemic is spreading in the country rapidly;

(c) if so, the number of persons affected and died due to this disease during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government are unable to procure the vaccine used world wide for the treatment of this disease as it is very expensive in India; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Viral Hepatitis of types A, B, C, D, E & G have been detected in the country. The endemicity